

City of Solon

DIVISION OF FIRE
6320 S.O.M. CENTER ROAD
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO 44139

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



464843

248-6939

JAMES R. WALLACE, CHIEF

August 9, 1979
6705 Richmond Rd.
Inland Reclamation
Fire Alarm

EVENTS LEADING TO FIRE:

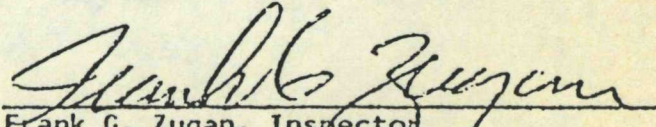
Approximately 1:00 PM, Driver, James Allen, Truck Number 330 of The Browning Ferris Industries of Ohio Trash haulers, picked up a trash container at the Sprayon Products Co., 26300 Fargo, Bedford Heights, Ohio, and proceeded to the landfill at 6705 Richmond Rd.

The contents of the trash container was dumped adjacent to a 19' Chevrolet Truck owned by The McCluey Trucking Co. and driven by Nathaniel McCray, who had just unloaded waste consisting of an unknown white powder substance picked up from The Synthetic Products Co., 174th and Euclid Ave. Mr. McCluey was in the back of the truck sweeping out the bed. Nearby, a trash packer, owned by The City of Newburgh Heights and driven by Larry Strump, was in the process of dumping its load.

Bulldozer operator Glen Wiley proceeded to push the pile of trash dumped by Browning & Ferris and in the process, passed over the pile crushing what was numerous cartons of aerosol spray cans. As Mr. Wiley moved forward, no problems were encountered. However, backing up a fire was started from an unknown ignition source, developing rapidly, heating and exploding many spray cans and enveloping the McCluey Trucking Company truck, as well as the Newburgh Heights truck.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Broon of The Sprayon Products Co., it was learned that the propellants used in the spray cans consist of a mixture of Propane, Butane and Freon. With an unknown number of cans being ruptured by the crushing of the bulldozer tracks liberating the highly flammable and explosive Propane and Butane, an ignition source was all that was needed, which did occur from an unknown source. In addition, Mr. Broon stated there was possibly two 55 gallon drums of paint waste also in the container. Combining all products, being Propane, Butane and paint waste, enamel and lacquer paint in the cans, it is evident a highly dangerous condition was created, resulting in a rapidly spreading building fire.

All involved people in the area, ran for their lives as cans began to explode.


Frank G. Zupan, Inspector

FGZ/te